

PW 145/8/2.1 1924

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
BUREAU OF MENTAL HYGIENE  
C. CANDY, M. D., DIRECTOR,  
HARRISBURG, PA.

# REPORT

OF THE

## POLK STATE SCHOOL



POLK, VENANGO COUNTY



FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING MAY 31, 1924

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# **REPORT**

**OF THE**

# **POLK STATE SCHOOL**



**POLK, VENANGO COUNTY**



**FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING MAY 31, 1924**



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## OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<i>John L. Hanna, President</i>	Franklin
<i>Miss Jessie Smiley, Secretary</i>	Franklin
<i>H. J. Crawford, Treasurer</i>	Emlenton
<i>Marshall Phipps</i>	Franklin
<i>Thomas J. Blair</i>	Pittsburgh
<i>Mrs. Ida H. Beatty</i>	Oil City
<i>G. E. Glines</i>	Franklin
<i>W. W. Richardson, M.D.</i>	Mercer
<i>E. T. Stevenson</i>	Titusville

### CHAPLAINS

<i>Rev. Thos. B. Downey, Roman Catholic</i>	Franklin
<i>Rev. Geo. W. Applegate, Protestant</i>	Polk
<i>Rev. C. C. Mohney, Protestant</i>	Polk

### RESIDENT OFFICERS

<i>J. M. Murdoch, M.D.</i>	Physician and Superintendent
<i>B. A. Black, M.D.</i>	Ass't Physician and Superintendent
<i>Henry B. Gaynor, M.D.</i>	Assistant Physician
<i>Miss Cecelia Conrad</i>	Secretary to Superintendent
<i>Miss Pearl Hockman</i>	Accountant
<i>Mrs. Mary Weikal</i>	Clerk
<i>George L. Weaver</i>	Steward
<i>B. C. Weikal</i>	Assistant Steward
<i>Miss Mary L. Roerig</i>	Matron
<i>Mrs. Maude Fell</i>	"Hospital" Matron
<i>Miss Etta Shoff</i>	"Lakeside" Matron
<i>Miss Nanna Zahniser</i>	"Gardenside" Matron
<i>Mrs. Helen Nye Cook</i>	"The Terrace" Matron
<i>Mrs. Idah Webb</i>	Housekeeper
<i>Miss Luella M. Smock</i>	Office Assistant
<i>Miss Carrie Harvey</i>	Supervisor
<i>George Bexfield</i>	Supervisor
<i>George B. Hays</i>	Engineer
<i>H. C. Ewalt</i>	Farmer

### DENTIST

<i>A. Kolb, D.D.S.</i>	Franklin
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## TEACHERS

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### PRINCIPAL

*Miss May Bruce*

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### MUSIC TEACHERS

*William Sutley*

*Miss Hazel Lydic*

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### KINDERGARTEN

*Miss Jane Snyder*

*Miss Mary Marshall*

*Miss Ruth Lewis*

*Miss Elizabeth Gleason*

*Miss Mary Jane Preston*

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### PRIMARY

*Miss Jennie Bartholomew*

*Miss Jessie Enoch*

*Miss Della Kaltenbaugh*

*Miss Minnie Seanor*

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### ADVANCED

*Miss Jessie Northcotte*

*Miss Katharine M. Morris*

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### MANUAL TRAINING

*Charles Weinand*

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### GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL

*Miss Ida C. Thompson*

*Miss Alice Harvey*

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### PHYSICAL TRAINING

*Miss Elizabeth Erdlitz*

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

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*To the Secretary of Welfare,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

The Board of Trustees of the Polk State School respectfully submits its report for the biennial period ending May 31st, 1924.

Regular monthly meetings have been held, also several special meetings and many visits and inspections made by committees and individual members of the Board.

A summary statement of the financial transactions and the progress of the work of the institution is fully reviewed on the reports of the Treasurer and Superintendent which are hereto attached. We believe the present institution and organization would be able to take care of the large number of children in this area awaiting such care, if the recommendations for improvements and additions made in the Superintendent's report be granted.

The decrease in the per capita cost of maintenance is a matter of gratification to our Board. This has been accomplished by the earnest cooperation of the Superintendent with the Board on a program of economy and efficiency without lowering the standard of living. The policy of paroling pupils has been followed wherever practicable.

The school is fortunate in having the continued services of Dr. Murdoch and many loyal and trusted employees. Dr. Murdoch has proved himself an able executive, and by his courtesy, consideration and kindly treatment of the children has gained the confidence of the entire Board.

Respectfully submitted

JOHN L. HANNA,  
H. J. CRAWFORD,  
MARSHALL PHIPPS,  
T. J. BLAIR,  
IDA H. BEATTY,  
G. E. GLINES,  
W. W. RICHARDSON,  
E. T. STEVENSON,  
JESSIE SMILEL, Secy.

*TRUSTEES.*

## **TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN A. WILSON.**

### **IN MEMORY of JOHN A. WILSON**

Trustee of the State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania from 1915 to June 6th, 1923.

The Board records with deep sorrow the death of Mr. John A. Wilson, on Wednesday morning, June 6th, 1923.

After a busy and useful life, marked by an exceptionally affable and genial personality, he leaves behind him a record of active accomplishment and of fidelity and loyalty to the interests that he served, and to his friends.

The institution has lost an able and wise trustee and his associates on this Board, a trusted, genial and valued friend.

**RESOLVED**, That this tribute to his memory be inscribed on the minutes of the institution and that a copy be furnished to his family to whom the Board tenders the most profound sympathy and condolence in their great sorrow.

**IN MEMORY OF**  
**WILLIAM T. BRADBERRY**

A member of the Board of Trustees from its organization in 1896 to 1923, and President of the Board from 1907 to 1923, died at his home in Pittsburgh, March 28, 1924, in his 85th year.

Mr. Bradberry was born in Finleyville, Pa., May 12, 1839 and came to old Allegheny City with his parents when 9 years of age. He was educated in the public schools of Allegheny and upon completion of his elementary studies became an apprentice iron moulder. In August 1862 he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, winning promotion to quartermaster sergeant, which position he held until mustered out in 1865. He again took up work as an iron moulder.

In January, 1870, he was appointed superintendent of the old DeHaven and Company stove foundry, and in 1879 he became associated with the Henry Anchutz & Company stove foundry, the name of which firm was later changed to Anchutz-Bradberry and Company.

Mr. Bradberry was always quite interested in the public schools of his city. He was a member of the old Allegheny School Board from 1883 until its dissolution upon the annexation of old Allegheny City to Pittsburgh.

He was a past Commander of Colonel John B. Clark Post No. 162 G. A. R., a member of the board of trustees of Soldiers' Memorial Hall. It was a source of personal gratification to Mr. Bradberry, that he cast a vote for Lincoln and voted for every subsequent Republican Presidential nominee since Lincoln.

He was married in 1866 to Miss Martha Walkenshaw, deceased. He was the father of eight children, surviving them all. He was remarried in 1911 to Lucille Ewalt who is the only survivor.

He always took a great deal of interest in the institution, to which he devoted a great deal of his time and ability. His remarkable enthusiasm and active interest in the affairs of the institution, continued during his entire service as trustee. He was a dignified and able presiding officer at the meetings of the Board

and under his direction the meetings of the Board were always harmonious and good feeling prevailed. His knowledge of building construction and equipment was most helpful and his words of encouragement to officers, employees and children was a source of inspiration to all. To him is largely due the success of the institution throughout his administration.

We tender to his bereaved wife our sincere sympathy and direct that a copy of this memorial be directed to her and recorded on our minutes.

**IN MEMORY OF**  
**FREDERICK H. COURSIN**

A member of the Board of Trustees of the State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania for 12 years, died at his home in Glassport, Pa. June 17, 1924, in the 85th year of his age.

Mr. Coursin was born in Elizabeth, Allegheny County, son of the late Benjamin Coursin, an early settler in Monongahela Valley.

In his early days he was engaged in the coal business in McKeesport and later was engaged in banking and real estate operation. He was a veteran of the Civil War, serving two years with Company A, 38th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, and Clark Post G. A. R.

His wife, Mrs. Louisa-Forsythe-Coursin died August 12, 1923. He is survived by three sons and five daughters, William J. Coursin, of Canonsburg, Pa.; George W. Coursin, of Glassport, Pa.; John B. Coursin, Mrs. Raymond Knight, Miss Mary E. and Ruth D. Coursin, of McKeesport, Pa. Mrs. Augusta Larimer of New York; and Mrs. Charles Cutchshaw, of Long Beach, California, eleven grandchildren, five great grandchildren and a sister, Mrs. Dorsey Downey, of New Philadelphia, O.

Mr. Coursin gave faithfully of his time and ability to the institution. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Board of Trustees, of which he was an able and valued member.

We tender to his bereaved family our sympathy and direct that a copy of this memorial be directed to them and recorded on our minutes.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1923.**

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**MAINTENANCE**

**Receipts—**

Balance in Treasury June 1, 1922 .....	\$ 20,497.23
Balance with Superintendent June 1, 1922 .....	1,733.05
From Commonwealth .....	502,462.26
From clothing furnished pupils .....	48,932.53
From pay and part pay pupils .....	17,777.15
From farm produce .....	6,137.00
From all other sources .....	3,751.50
	—————\$601,290.72

**Expenditures—**

Warrants paid during year .....	\$ 564,284.74
Cash with Superintendent June 1, 1923 .....	3,784.51
Cash with Treasurer June 1, 1923 .....	33,221.47
	—————\$601,290.72

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS**

**Hot Water Supply—**

Receipts .....	\$ 1,146.90
Warants paid .....	1,146.90
	—————

**Warehouse—**

Receipts .....	\$ 9,783.93
Warrants paid .....	9,783.93
	—————

**Farm Land—**

Receipts .....	\$ 17,650.50
Warrants paid .....	17,650.50
	—————

**Fire Protection Equipment—**

Receipts .....	\$ 814.35
Warrants paid .....	814.35
	—————

**Electric Light & Power Equipment—**

Receipts .....	\$ 3,955.88
Warrants paid .....	3,955.88
	—————

**Dairy Barn—**

Receipts .....	\$ 9,501.57
Warrants paid .....	9,501.57
	—————

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1924.**

**MAINTENANCE**

**Receipts—**

Balance in Treasury June 1, 1923 .....	\$ 33,221.47
Balance with Superintendent June 1, 1923 .....	3,784.51
From Commonwealth .....	401,089.97
From Commonwealth for year ended May 31, 1923 ....	32,954.96
From clothing furnished patients .....	45,850.49
From pay and part pay patients .....	22,090.95
From sale of materials .....	5,841.96
From all other sources .....	5,025.93
	<hr/>
	\$549,860.24

**Expenditures—**

Warrants paid during year .....	\$463,971.17
Warrants paid for year ended May 31, 1923 .....	32,954.96
Cash with Superintendent June 1, 1924 .....	500.00
Cash with Treasurer June 1, 1924 .....	52,434.11
	<hr/>
	\$549,860.24

**SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS**

**Farm Land—**

Receipts .....	\$ 40.00
Warrants paid .....	40.00
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**ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURES**

The Following is an Analysis of Expenditures on Account  
of Maintenance.

For the year ended May 31, 1923.

Wages .....	\$172,482.65
Salaries .....	47,576.24
Subsistence .....	112,977.28
Farm .....	41,951.13
Fuel and Lights .....	80,058.83
Conveyance .....	1,400.04
Repairs and Improvements .....	16,440.58
Furniture, Beds and Bedding, etc. ....	13,946.70
School Supplies .....	2,841.51
Clothing .....	38,298.52
Medical Supplies .....	2,933.75
Trustee's Expenses .....	167.21
Other Expenses .....	29,959.46
	<hr/>
	\$561,033.90

Daily average attendance for 12 months ended May 31, 1923 ..... 2045

Per capita expenditure for year .....	274.317
Average weekly per capita expenditure .....	5.275

**For the year ended May 31, 1924.**

Stores Account .....	\$160,324.77
Dept. "A"—Administration .....	24,583.34
" "B"—Household .....	92,655.47
" "C"—Operation of Plant & Care of Grounds .....	36,781.00
" "D"—Repair and Upkeep .....	30,657.03
" "E"—Shoes & Clothing .....	13,577.99
" "F"—Professional Care of Patients .....	74,385.07
" "G"—Auxiliary Agencies & Sundry Activities .....	16,746.44
" "H"—Agricultural Activities .....	36,750.69
	<hr/>
	\$486,461.80

Daily average attendance for 12 months ended May 31, 1924 .....	2050
Per capita expenditure for year .....	237.253
Average weekly per capita expenditure .....	4.563

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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*TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE POLK STATE SCHOOL:*

Gentlemen—I submit the following report for the two years ended May 31, 1924:

### MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

<b>Year Ended May 31, 1923—</b>	Boys	Girls	Total
Enrollment at beginning of year .....	1012	1046	2058
In institution at beginning of year .....	1005	1035	2040
Away from institution beginning of year .....	7	11	18
Admitted during year .....	125	122	247
Cared for during year .....	1137	1168	2305
Discharged—Improved .....	68	53	121
Discharged—Unimproved .....	14	18	32
Died .....	32	41	73
Away from institution at end of year .....	11	12	23
In institution at end of year .....	1012	1044	2056
Enrollment at end of year .....	1023	1056	2079

<b>Year Ended May 31, 1924—</b>	Boys	Girls	Total
Enrollment at beginning of year .....	1023	1056	2079
In institution at beginning of year .....	1012	1044	2056
Away from institution beginning of year .....	11	12	23
Admitted during year .....	124	123	247
Cared for during year .....	1147	1179	2326
Discharged—Improved .....	46	41	87
Discharged—Unimproved .....	10	22	32
Died .....	34	31	65
Away from institution at end of year .....	39	38	77
In institution at end of year .....	1018	1047	2065
Enrolled at end of year .....	1057	1085	2142

### DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

May 31, 1924

	Present			Rated Capacity		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Boys' Cottages .....	561	561	561	400		400
Girls' Cottages .....	94	352	446		400	400
Lakeside .....	308		308	250		250
Gardenside .....	3	270	273		250	250
The Terrace .....	1	380	381		330	330
Infirmary .....	51	45	96	40	40	80
On Parole .....	39	38	77			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>2142</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>1710</b>
On Waiting List	255	100	355			

Again I am pleased to be able to report that notwithstanding the very crowded condition of the school, the health of those entrusted to our care has been remarkably good. We have been free from serious accident or contagious disease and all have been made as comfortable as possible in our crowded cottages.

The mental age of the 494 admissions is as follows:

Mental Age 1-3 years .....	212
"      " 3-7 " .....	125
"      " 7-12 " .....	157

As indicated by the mental age the great majority of the children admitted are of the lower grades of mental defect. This has come about largely through the greater difficulty of caring for the more defective ones at home, making the admission of these cases most imperative. This is unfortunate as it postpones indefinitely the admission of the children who could be most benefited.

After a period of training and treatment we have returned to the family or found suitable homes for all pupils where there is a reasonable prospect that they will get along satisfactorily outside of the institution. Many of these former pupils keep in touch with us by letters and visits; expressing appreciation and gratitude for the training and treatment received. Many have proved to be honest, reliable and industrious and are respected in the communities in which they live.

During the period covered by this report we have released or placed in homes, 272 boys and girls; and in addition as provided for in the Mental Health Act, we have paroled a large number of pupils, thus permitting them an opportunity to make good before being definitely released; 77 pupils are on parole at the present time.

The majority of mental defectives, if properly understood and treated are good, affectionate, desire to help others and are honest, reliable and well behaved. We have in the past overstressed mere intelligence; other mental characteristics are of as great, if not greater importance. Success in life depends quite as much on personality and emotional reaction as upon intelligence. We have not sufficiently appreciated good behavior in those lacking in intelligence. After all it is not so much a question of how much a boy or girl knows as it is how he or she behaves.

There is a class of defectives in which the defect is not so much a lowered intelligence as it is faulty character traits. These children, as a rule, do fairly well in response to the usual intelligence tests and are frequently quite clever and capable under direction and appropriate supervision. However, the teacher has difficulty in holding their attention, they are erratic, abusive of more defective children, untruthful and selfish, appropriate the belongings of others, do not respect property rights, are wasteful and wantonly destructive. They are often precocious sexually, show-

ing abnormal sexual development and perversions which they make little or no effort to control. They are either indifferent to the opinion of others or show much ingenuity in the fabrication of fanciful tales to hide their wrong doings. They show little or no fear of punishment.

These children cannot be permitted to remain at large as they are a menace to innocent people and destructive to property. From this type of children, the army of adult criminals receives many if not most of its recruits. They do not so much lack intelligence as emotional control.

In our institution they interfere greatly with the training of the ordinary simple minded mental defectives. They make it extremely difficult for the teacher and attendant to give the tender and considerate treatment which all of our children should receive.

As we have in our State a special hospital for the criminal insane, where the insane with criminal tendencies may be separated from other mental patients, so we should have an institution for defective delinquents where the defective delinquents may be separated from the well behaved and harmless mental defectives. Other States have special institutions for the defective delinquents. I am pleased to learn that the Department of Welfare advocates such an institution for our State.

The children who come to us present many varied problems. The nature and cause of defect must be diligently sought out; the degree of retardation established and the proper remedial agencies and appropriate methods of training applied to each individual. No two children are alike.

The problem is primarily a medical one, calling upon all the resources of medical science. Aside from the medical treatment and scholastic training, we endeavor to make each and everyone as comfortable and happy as is possible with the means at our disposal.

An institution such as ours caring for over 2000 persons, and with over 300 officers, physicians, teachers, nurses and employees, is comparable to a fairly large sized town. We have all the needs of such a community; school, church, store, shops, industries, hospital, place for amusement, recreation grounds, power house, laundry, water works, sewage disposal plant, farm dairy and garden. All activities must be co-ordinated and work in harmony. We are a town of live interests in which each individuals takes an active part, according to his or her ability. There is an abundance of opportunity for work and play for all.

We have endeavored to maintain cordial relations with our neighbors and assist parents, guardians and teachers in near by communities in the management of defective children in the home and school, where admission to the institution is not necessary or possible at the time.

The period covered by this report has tested the loyalty of the people in the service of the instituion. We have pruned, and cut, and saved, and have reached a limit where saving means sacrifice, but the sacrifice has been made. Notwithstanding the appeals for admission we have been unable to further increase our facilities which are already taxed far beyond their normal capacity.

Although we require a large staff of trained people; doctors, nurses and teachers, for the treatment and training of the manifold forms of mental defect found in our inmates, requiring both hospital and school, the institution has been maintained, including upkeep of property, operation of hospital and school, the furnishing of food and clothing and the payment of salaries and wages of all officers and employees at a weekly per capita cost of \$4.92.

The total value of farm products produced on the school farm as set forth in detail in the Steward's report for the year ended May 31, 1923 was \$91,969.84 and for the year ended May 31, 1924 was \$92,572.40.

## OUR NEEDS

Addition to Steam Plant. Our greatest need is an addition to the power house to provide for an additional 550 horse power boiler, coal crusher and additional coal storage. The entire existing battery of three boilers is kept in constant operation during the winter, leaving no reserve. An additional boiler is necessary to be held in reserve for use in case of accident or necessary repairs without interfering with the service. A coal crusher would make it possible to purchase run of mine coal. As we are now situated, we are forced to purchase either slack or coal already crushed. Our present coal storage is only sufficient for a few weeks supply. We should have storage capacity to meet our requirements for at least two or three months.

Farm Colonies. The old buildings upon the farms recently acquired should be repaired and improved to provide Farm Colonies for a number of groups of boys on the outlying farms. This would not only be good for the boys but would add to the efficiency of the farm, which could be conducted far more efficiently if divided into sections than being operated as a unit.

### **BOYS' COTTAGE GROUP TO PROVIDE FOR 400 PUPILS**

Notwithstanding the over-crowding of the institution and the tremendous increase in number of applications for admission, there has been no increase in the capacity of the institution in the past ten years. The capacity of the institution should be increased by the construction of a group of six cottages to accommodate at least 400 boys, similar to the Terrace group for girls. This group of cottages would complete the original plan of the institution. We believe the Terrace group provides the most satisfactory classification and most suitable accommodations in existence for the economic supervision and care of mental defectives. The plan could be simplified and the cost of construction somewhat reduced by the substitution of concrete for stone without impairing the usefulness of the group.

**Isolation Hospital.** Such a hospital is needed for the care of cases of contagious disease. At the present time the school has no facilities for the isolation or treatment of patients suffering from contagious disease. Quarantine regulations make it necessary frequently to close our schools for long periods, interfering seriously with the routine operation of the institution. Without a suitable hospital for isolation and treatment, epidemics spread throughout the various departments, which epidemics with suitable provision could be checked and prevented from becoming general. We have suitable plans for such a building which is urgently needed.

**Nurses' Home.** A Nurses' Home with reading room and a place for the entertainment of friends to provide a social center in pleasing surroundings under appropriate supervision. Such a building would do much to attract and hold the better type of institutional employees. Such a building is especially necessary in an institution located as we are in the country. We have suitable plans for such a building.

**Covering Pipes and Tanks With Heat Insulating Material.** There is a great loss of heat from the uncovered surface of steam and hot water pipes throughout the institution. Joints are affected by cold air coming in contact with steam pipes. These bare pipes, flanges and fittings should be thoroughly insulated to reduce the heat loss and to reduce the tendency to the development of leaks.

**Refrigerator Lines.** By connecting the refrigerators to the ice plant with brine lines, we would reduce the danger of loss of perishable supplies and cut down the cost of operation of the ice plant where the ice is now manufactured and distributed to the various buildings.

Tuberculosis Cottages. At the present time we have no adequate facilities either for the isolation or treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The temporary, two story, frame structure adjoining the hospital can accommodate only 24 patients. We should have accommodations for at least twice this number. Aside from being inadequate, the temporary structure is a fire hazard, not only to the patients in this structure but to the hospital which it adjoins and should be removed.

Reconstruction Of Main Stairway In Hospital Building With Fireproof Material. At the time the hospital was built owing to lack of funds to construct stairways of fireproof material, wooden stairways were substituted. This is a serious fire hazard in the building where we care for our most helpless patients and should be eliminated.

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The medical department has been ably conducted under the direction of Dr. B. A. Black, Clinical Director and Assistant Superintendent. During my prolonged absence of three months, Dr. Black faithfully and ably conducted the affairs of the school as Acting Superintendent.

The educational department has been ably directed under the leadership of Miss May Bruce, Principal of Schools.

We are fortunate in having a loyal and efficient group of officers, physicians, teachers, attendants and employees who have faithfully carried on the affairs of the institution—always endeavoring to bring about the best results obtainable in the treatment, training and welfare of the children in their care, with due regard to economy, that the financial burden may be as light as possible.

Services rendered by the boys and girls have materially aided in keeping down the cost of operation. These services cheerfully rendered, carefully recorded and conservatively estimated, represent an annual saving of over \$100,000. in the maintenance of the institution.

For the comfort and welfare of all who live within the institution we cannot be too considerate.

For your counsel of wisdom, for your support, for your confidence when support and confidence were needed, I express grateful appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. MURDOCH, M.D.  
*Superintendent.*

## REPORT OF THE STEWARD

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### PRODUCTION OF FARM AND GARDEN

Year Ended May 31, 1923.

#### FARM

Article	Quantity	Rate	Value
Stock Beets .....	1,000 bu.	.50	\$500.00
Apples .....	651 bu.	.80	520.80
Ensilage .....	850 tons	8.00	6,800.00
Grain:			
Oats .....	2,665 bu.	.45	1,199.25
Wheat .....	337 bu.	1.20	404.40
Buckwheat .....	480 bu.	1.00	480.00
Rye .....	92 bu.	.75	69.00
Field Corn (Ear) ....	1,340 bu.	.50	670.00
Green Forage .....	227 tons	8.00	1,816.00
Hay .....	382 tons	18.00	6,876.00
Meat:			
Mutton .....	137 lbs.	.15	20.55
Potatoes .....	5,711 bu.	1.00	5,711.00
Straw .....	48 tons	12.00	576.00
Ruta Bagas .....	790 bu.	.50	395.00
			\$26,038.00

#### DAIRY

Milk .....	923,528 lbs.	\$.03 1/2	\$32,323.48
Beef .....	12,762 lbs.	.12	1,531.44
Veal .....	4,957 lbs.	.15	743.55
			\$34,598.47

#### GARDEN

Beans, all kinds .....	1,055 bu.	\$.75	\$791.25
Beets .....	1,253 bu.	.75	939.75
Berries:			
Strawberries .....	944 qts.	.15	141.60
Cauliflower .....	144 bu.	.75	108.00
Cabbage .....	27,107 heads	.07	1,897.49
Carrots .....	119 bu.	1.00	119.00
Celery .....	237 doz.	.25	59.25
Corn, sweet .....	2,190 bu.	.50	1,095.00
Cucumbers .....	391 bu.	.75	293.25
Lettuce:			
Hot House .....	139 1/2 lbs	.10	13.95
Field Grown .....	327 bu.	.50	163.50
Onions:			
Green .....	5,930 doz.	.05	296.50
Winter .....	204 bu.	2.00	408.00
Parsley .....	481 bunches	.05	24.05
Parsnips .....	394 bu.	.75	295.50
Peppers .....	158 1/2 bu.	.75	295.50
Peas .....	628 1/2 bu.	1.00	628.50
Radishes .....	2,085 doz.	.10	208.50
Squash .....	1,177 count	.10	117.70

Tomatoes:				
Hot House .....	249 lbs.	.05	12.45	
Field Grown .....	2,710 lbs.	.50	1,355.00	
Pumpkins .....	2,800 count	.15	420.00	
Pop Corn .....	245 bu.	1.00	245.00	
Spinach & Swiss Chard	940 bu.	.50	470.00	
Egg Plant .....	2 bu.	.75	1.50	
Sauer Kraut .....	51 bbls.	15.00	765.00	
Turnips .....	377 bu.	.50	188.50	\$11,177.12

#### PIGGERY

Pork .....	65,126 lbs.	.12	\$7,815.12
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#### HENNERY

	Daily		
Eggs .....	10,199 doz.	market price	\$8,730.45
Poultry, dressed .....	6,413 lbs.	\$.30	1,923.90
<b>TOTAL</b> .....			<b>\$5,654.35</b>

#### INVENTORY OF LIVE STOCK

Horses .....	22		
Colts .....	1		
Mules .....	3		
Shetland Ponies .....	13		
	39		\$4,130.00
Cattle:			
Cows .....	156		
Heifers .....	103		
Calves .....	72		
Sires .....	6		
	337		38,090.00
Sheep:			
Breeders .....	25		
Lambs .....	25		
	50		250.00
Piggery:			
Brood Sows .....	35		
Boars .....	2		
Boars .....	2		
Shoates .....	268		
Small Pigs .....	95		
	400		4,794.00
Hennery:			
Hens .....	1,108		
Roosters .....	14		
Ducks .....	162		
Geese .....	73		
Guineas .....	30		
Young Stock .....	3,345		
	4,732		2,383.25
Total			\$49,647.25

## REPORT OF THE STEWARD

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### PRODUCTION OF FARM AND GARDEN

Year Ended May 31, 1924.

#### FARM

Article	Quantity	Rate	Value
	600 bu.	\$.50	\$300.00
Beets .....	600 bu.	\$.50	\$300.00
Fruit:			
Apples .....	1,269 bu.	.75	951.75
Grain:			
Oats .....	3,700 bu.	.50	1,850.00
Wheat .....	375 bu.	1.00	375.00
Buckwheat .....	400 bu.	.75	300.00
Ensilage .....	850 tons	8.00	6,800.00
Green Forage .....	240 tons	8.00	1,920.00
Hay .....	266 tons	18.00	4,788.00
Meat:			
Mutton .....	1,687 lbs.	.18	303.66
Potatoes .....	5,616 bu.	1.00	5,616.00
Straw .....	36 tons	10.00	360.00
			\$23,564.41

#### DAIRY

Milk .....	863,898 lbs.	\$.03½	\$30,236.43
	104,005 lbs.	.04	4,160.20
Meat:			
Beef .....	20,041 lbs.	.12	2,404.92
Veal .....	6,080 lbs.	.14	851.20
			\$37,652.75

#### GARDEN

Asparagus .....	20 bunches	\$.20	\$4.00
Beans, all kinds .....	779 bu.	.75	584.25
Beets .....	666½ bu.	.75	499.87
Berries:			
Strawberries .....	189 qts.	.15	28.35
Cauliflower .....	99 bu.	.75	74.25
Cabbage .....	24,835 heads	.07	1,738.45
Carrots .....	168 bu.	1.00	168.00
Celery .....	269 doz.	.75	201.75
Celery Cabbage .....	57 bu.	.50	28.50
Corn, sweet .....	677 bu.	1.00	677.00
Cucumbers .....	6 bu.	1.50	9.00
Lettuce .....	225½ bu.	.50	112.75
Onion:			
Green .....	19,429 doz.	.05	971.45
Winter .....	192½ bu.	1.74	334.95
Parsley .....	788 bunches	.07	55.16
Parsnips .....	447 bu.	1.00	447.00
Peppers .....	80¾ bu.	1.00	80.75
Peas .....	217 bu.	1.00	217.00
Radishes .....	320 doz.	.05	16.00
Rhubarb .....	1,647 bunches	.10	164.70
Squash .....	926 count	.10	92.60
Tomatoes, Hot house ....	35 lbs.	.151-7	5.30

Field Grown .....	1,520½ bu.	.75	1,140.35
Pumpkins .....	200 count	.10	20.00
Spinach & Swiss Chard	600 bu.	.25	150.00
Egg Plant .....	12 bu.	1.00	12.00
Sauer Kraut .....	65½ bbls.	15.00	922.50
Horseradish .....	106 lbs.	.05	5.30
Turnips .....	285 bu.	.75	213.75
			\$8,974.98

#### PIGGERY

Pork, dressed .....	51,592 lbs.	.12	\$6,191.04
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#### HENNERY

	Daily		
Eggs .....	6,490 doz.	market price	\$1,931.93
Poultry, dressed .....	6,059 lbs.	.25	1,514.75
TOTAL .....			\$79,829.86

#### INVENTORY OF LIVE STOCK

Horses .....	22	
Colts .....	1	
Mules .....	3	
Ponies .....	16	
	42	\$4,290.00
Cattle:		
Cows .....	149	
Heifers .....	56	
Calves .....	43	
Sires .....	3	
	251	30,265.00
Sheep:		
Breeders .....	19	
Lambs .....	23	
	42	183.00
Piggery:		
Brood Sows .....	50	
Boars .....	2	
Shoates .....	160	
Small Pigs .....	77	
	289	3,065.00
Hennery:		
Hens .....	1,532	
Roosters .....	6	
Cockerels .....	16	
Ducks .....	473	
Geese .....	12	
Guineas .....	26	
Growing Chicks .....	2,770	
	4,385	\$2,457.10
Total		\$40,260.10

**TABLE I.**  
**General Information.**

Date of opening.....	April 21, 1897
Value of Real Estate, including Buildings.....	\$1,786,647.37
Value of Personal Property.....	363,010.29
Total Valuation.....	2,149,657.63
Total acreage of Institution Property.....	2,014
Total acreage under cultivation.....	925

**TABLE II.**  
**Movement of Population.**

	1922-1923			1923-1924		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Number at beginning of year.....	1012	1046	2058	1023	1056	2079
Admitted during year.....	125	122	247	124	123	247
Total cared for during year.....	1137	1168	2305	1147	1179	2326
Discharged—Improved.....	68	53	121	46	41	87
Discharged—Unimproved.....	14	18	32	10	22	32
Died.....	32	41	73	24	31	65
Remaining at end of year.....	1023	1056	2179	1057	1085	2142

**TABLE III.**  
**Number Admitted and Discharged During Each Year.**

Year	Admitted		Cared For		Discharged							
					Improved		Unimproved		Died		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1897 .....	203	150	203	150	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	3
1898 .....	124	78	325	225	15	9	4	4	13	9	32	22
1899 .....	86	57	379	260	15	9	...	5	12	3	27	17
1900 .....	86	65	448	308	28	9	4	3	20	11	52	23
1901 .....	86	65	472	350	4	1	3	3	15	15	22	19
1902 .....	78	67	529	398	32	10	5	3	16	16	53	29
1903 .....	73	50	549	419	21	10	6	5	14	4	41	19
1904 .....	107	70	615	470	26	15	...	3	24	9	50	27
1905 .....	118	56	683	409	13	6	1	1	27	16	41	21
1906 .....	150	120	792	596	66	26	6	7	61	18	133	53
1907 .....	131	64	791	608	43	22	13	1	27	20	83	49
1908 .....	67	53	775	618	32	14	3	8	19	17	54	30
1909 .....	81	67	803	644	7	1	9	15	23	14	29	33
1910 .....	130	97	803	713	28	9	12	2	35	20	75	31
1911 .....	132	116	948	800	67	25	10	12	41	33	118	70
1912 .....	121	74	951	804	57	33	12	7	27	29	96	69
1913 .....	111	75	966	81	63	27	4	7	40	17	107	51
1914 .....	106	75	965	834	50	15	11	6	30	21	91	42
1915 .....	83	53	957	845	35	24	3	7	28	19	66	50
1916 .....	86	180	977	975	32	22	7	5	34	22	73	49
1917 .....	141	139	1045	1065	56	32	9	19	35	29	100	80
1918 .....	141	115	1086	1100	51	32	14	15	46	28	111	75
1919 .....	165	117	1140	1142	64	43	15	13	99	48	178	104
1920 .....	138	93	1100	1136	72	60	25	13	36	34	129	107
1921 .....	153	118	1124	1147	94	76	20	8	32	41	146	125
1922 .....	127	100	1105	1122	35	33	14	11	44	32	93	76
1923 .....	125	122	1137	1168	88	53	14	18	32	41	114	112
1924 .....	124	123	1147	1179	46	41	10	22	34	31	90	94
Totals.....	3273	2564			1120	659	234	223	861	598	2215	1480

TABLE IV.  
Age of Those Admitted.

	1922-1923			1923-1924		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Under ten years.....	34	41	75	40	35	75
10 to 14 years.....	37	31	68	40	25	65
15 to 19 years.....	32	29	61	20	25	45
20 to 24 years.....	1	5	6	2	7	9
25 to 29 years.....		3	3	2	2	4
30 to 34 years.....		1	1		2	2
35 to 39 years.....		1	1	1	1	2
40 to 44 years.....				1	1	2
45 to 49 years.....		1	1		1	1
50 to 54 years.....						
55 to 59 years.....				1		1
Unascertained.....				2	13	15
Total.....	104	112	216	109	112	221

TABLE V.  
Number Employed in Industrial Branches

	Boys	Girls	Total
Bake Shop.....	7	....	7
Carpenter Shop.....	2	....	2
Chickery.....	8	....	8
Dairy.....	9	....	9
Domestic Duties.....	300	410	710
Farm and Gardens.....	60	....	60
Grading, Road Building.....	40	....	40
Laundry.....	19	62	81
Lawns.....	50	....	50
Mattress Shop.....	12	....	12
Painting.....	2	....	2
Sewing Rooms.....		36	36
Shoemaking and Reparing.....	7	....	7
Tailoring.....	17	....	17
Piggery.....	6	....	64
Storerooms.....	4	....	
Totals.....	543	508	1051

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Persons applying for admission of children must do so on the form prescribed by the Department of Welfare, in accordance with the Act of July 11, 1923, (Act No. 414). This form may be obtained from the Polk State School or the Bureau of Mental Health, Department of Welfare, Harrisburg.

Section 309. The superintendent of any State or licensed school for mental defectives may receive and detain any mentally defective person, resident of this State, under twenty years of age and incapable of being properly educated and trained in the public schools, whose condition of mental defect and whose need of and fitness for care in a school for mental defectives shall have been certified to by a qualified physician, and whose admission shall be applied for by a parent, guardian, or relative of such person, or by any other responsible person having custody of such mentally defective person or being liable for his support.

The said application shall be made on a form prescribed by the department, and shall state the name, sex, age, and residence of said mentally defective person, and such other facts as may be required by the department. If the facts or any of them are unknown to the applicant, it shall be so stated in the application.

If the said application is for the admission of a person to a school owned and controlled by the Commonwealth, it shall be endorsed by the poor authorities of the county in which the said person resides, if there be such authorities in said county, otherwise by the directors of the poor or overseers of the poor district in which said person resides.

But before any person shall be admitted to any school for mental defectives under the provisions of this section, the consent of the managers or superintendent thereof to such admission shall have been obtained.

The poor authorities of any county, or overseers of the poor district therein, in endorsing an application for the admission of a person to said school, shall state whether or not such person has an estate of sufficient value or a parent or parents of sufficient financial ability to defray the expenses, in whole or in part, of supporting such person in said school, and if there be such means of support in part only, then the amount per month which the parents or parent or legal guardian of such person may be able

to pay; and the person or persons who make the application for such admission shall therein make statement, under oath, as to such means of support. Said managers or superintendent in accepting an application for the admission of any person shall fix the amount, if any, which shall be paid for such support according to the ability of such parents or parent of the person, or according to the value of such person's estate, if any, and shall require payment for such support, so far as there may be ability to pay, as a condition to the admission or retention of said person. Said amount may, at any time be changed by said managers or superintendent upon receiving further information concerning such means of support. When neither the said person nor his parent or parents are of sufficient financial ability to defray the expense, in whole or in part, of his support in said school, the ascertainment of the facts shall be as hereinbefore stated, and the poor authorities or directors or overseers of the poor endorsing the application shall agree to pay the school for clothing, as may be required for the comfort and advantage of said person, at an annual rate to be established by the trustees or managers of the school after submission of the same to and approval by the department. All other support at the school shall be provided for by annual appropriations, at such per capita rates as shall be appropriated by the General Assembly, on the application of the trustees or managers, after submission of the same to and approval by the department: Provided, however, That in any judicial district in which there is a municipal court vested with the exclusive jurisdiction over proceedings concerning children suffering from epilepsy, nervous and mental defects, then admission of mentally defective or epileptic children to any State or municipal institution from said judicial district shall be exclusively vested in said court.

Secton 310. The superintendent of any State or licensed school for mental defectives may receive and detain any mentally defective person twenty years of age, or who is of such inoffensive habits as to make him a proper subject for classification and discipline in a school for mental defectives. The procedure for admitting any such person shall be the same as for the admission of mentally defective persons under the age of twenty years.

#### **WESTERN DISTRICT FOR THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED**

In regard to the care of the feeble-minded, Pennsylvania is divided into Eastern and Western Districts. This Institution is for the *Western District*, whch is composed of the following counties, viz.: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Bedford,

Blair, Crawford, Clarion, Cambria, Clearfield, Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Erie, Elk, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Huntingdon, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, Mercer, Mifflin, McKean, Potter, Somerset, Venango, Westmoreland, Washington and Warren.

### SCHOOLS

The play instinct as developed in the kindergarten, is the basis of all instruction given in the Institution. The kindergarten games and occupations lead up to the various branches of manual training. Aside from the class room instruction, the training consists of the more practical affairs of every day life, the cultivation of habits of cheerfulness, cleanliness and order.

The interest taken by the children in their school work and the progress made is highly satisfactory, demonstrating that a child who is mentally deficient or who is extremely nervous has a much better chance of improving when educated with those of similar mental caliber than when subjected to hopeless competition with normal children.

Special attention is given to nature study, the school room instruction being supplemented by excursions into the woods, where the children in company with their teachers collect specimens of minerals, plants and animals which are the subject of further investigation in the school room.

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

In accordance with the Act creating the Institution, special attention is given to the care and raising of stock, the cultivation of plants and vegetables and the various branches of farming.

The industrial training of the children we consider of the greatest importance, realizing that it is only by directing the energies of the children in profitable channels that we can develop the best that is in them, bringing about the highest mental and physical development and increasing their fund of true happiness.

To enable a boy to see and feel that he can do some one thing well and that he is of some use in the world increases his self respect and goes far toward making a man of him.

The educational wood sloyd classes are of great value in the development of children selected for this class of instruction.

The work upon the farm is largely carried on by the boys. The result of their labors may be seen in the steward's report of produce from the farm and garden.

Other groups are engaged in the tailor shop, the shoe shop, the carpenter shop, the mattress shop and the manual room with its various and ever-increasing occupations.

The girls have likewise been trained and developed in the sewing rooms, mending rooms, laundry, kitchen and general house-keeping.

#### **PHYSICAL TRAINING**

Gymnastics, as given in the Institution, have a three-fold value—educational, corrective and hygienic.

The work in the gymnasium is facilitated by a complete equipment of apparatus, which allows of a great variety of exercises. In this work the pupils show a great deal of enthusiasm and interest. Many children not able to receive class room instruction receive gymnastic treatment. Some who are unable to join in class gymnastic exercises and simple games are given individual exercises, the gymnastics being supplemented by massage where indicated.

Measurements taken from time to time, testifying to the benefits derived from these exercises, are not the only results noted. As a result of carefully directed exercises there is often an awakening of the natural childish impulse to run, jump and play, which is in turn followed by mental awakening and development.

#### **MUSIC**

The band and orchestra, consisting of pupils of the school, contribute much to the enjoyment of all within the Institution.

#### **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

Sabbath and Wednesday evening services are held throughout the year. A number of our larger children attend the services in the village churches.

#### **RECREATION AND AMUSEMENTS**

The lawns, groves and playgrounds are a never-ending pleasure to the little ones. During the summer and fall, picnics and fishing and nutting parties are of almost daily occurrence. Almost every boys' cottage has its baseball diamond. The custodial buildings are provided with recreation grounds, swings, slides, and sand piles and a variety of playground apparatus.

Weekly dances for the children are held in the gymnasium, the music being provided by the Institution band and orchestra. Moving pictures are exhibited in a fine, large auditorium one or two nights every week. The auditorium is provided with a splendid pipe organ and concerts are here given by the school children, and during the winter a series of entertainments is given by outside talent. Musical and amateur theatrical performances are frequently given by amateur talent from the neighboring cities.

All of the holidays are appropriately observed.

#### VISITING DAYS

Visitors are welcome at any time. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the most appropriate days to visit the schools and industrial classes.

#### LOCATION

The school is located at Polk, Venango County, six miles west of Franklin, on the Franklin and Oil City branch of the New York Central Railway.

A bus line is in operation between the School and Franklin.

It may be reached from Pittsburgh over the Erie & Pittsburgh Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad via Mahoningtown and Stonerboro, or by the Allegheny Valley Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Franklin and from Franklin to Polk via the New York Central Railway or Bus line.

The school may be reached by Automobile over good roads from Pittsburgh via Butler and Harrisville; from Mercer via Sandy Lake; from Erie via Meadville and Franklin; from the East via Philipsburg, Clearfield, Clarion and Franklin.

Donations are gladly received especially at the holiday season.

Contributions of books, magazines, toys or cash, are especially appreciated.

All contributions should be addressed to the Polk State School, Polk, Pa.







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annual report

1924

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